

**The Alexandria Gazette**

THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 29.

THE SNOW STORM, which commenced early yesterday, continued all day, and all last night, with the wind from the northeast. Had there not have been so much rain previously, and the ground been so thoroughly saturated with water, the snow would have been a deep one. As it is, the earth was covered this morning to the depth of two or three inches. The wind has shifted, and the storm ceased just before day this morning.

The wintry aspect of nature this morning was stern enough for a time—but the bright sun soon shone out, and softened the harsher features of the scene. Nothing could have been more beautiful than the trees, with their branches loaded with snow, and "arrayed in a garment of white."

A dispatch in the Washington Star, dated Fairfax Court House, January 27th, says:—"Last night the Federal pickets were driven in by some of Stuart's cavalry, wounding one and capturing nine. Col. Wyndham then started with about two hundred men in pursuit. He came up with the retiring enemy beyond Middleburg, and after a short engagement he captured twenty-four of them."

The Washington Star argues that "the prospect for the success of the Federal arms was never brighter than at present"—and that "financial affairs are the only drawback, and it lies in the power of Congress to arrange these satisfactorily."

The U. S. Senate, on Tuesday night, passed the bill for the indemnification of the President and other persons, for suspending the writ of habeas corpus, and other acts done in pursuance thereof.

A paper is in circulation in Washington, recommending Andrew Wylie, as the successor of Judge Crawford, on the bench of the Criminal Court of the District of Columbia. The Washington Chronicle says that the President has nominated Mr. Wylie to the Senate, for the office.

Gen. Buraside and Gen. Sumner were relieved from their late commands, at their own requests; Gen. Franklin was simply "relieved from duty, in the army of the Potomac."

Simon Cameron, it is said will resign his office as minister to Russia; and Cassius M. Clay be sent again to St. Petersburg.

There is an unusual number of applicants for admission into the Washington alms house this winter.

Gen. Hooker, who was in Washington on Tuesday, in consultation with the military authorities, has left for his headquarters.

Gold at the Second Board, in New York, yesterday, 154.

A British officer serving in Canada was recently arrested at Point of Rocks on his return from Richmond. He was arrested as a spy and committed to the Old Capitol prison. He will be tried by court-martial. His name is said to be Wynne.

General Hooker has taken Brig. Gen. Butterfield as his Chief of Staff.

**PRISONERS AND CONTRABAND GOODS.**—The Jacob Bell arrived at the Washington Navy Yard on Tuesday night from the lower Potomac. She brought about six hundred dollars worth of goods, and twenty odd prisoners which were captured while crossing the river off Brittan's Bay. They occupied four boats, and succeeded in getting very near the Virginia shore before they were overhauled. Six of the passengers made their escape. Among the captured are W. W. Ward, of St. Mary's county, who was until recently a clerk in a store near the Navy Yard; W. F. Littlepage, of Baltimore, and a Mr. Pentz, of Memphis, Tennessee. Ward and Littlepage have formerly been in custody for violating the blockade. The goods consisted of whisky, dry goods, groceries, &c. A number of letters, addressed to Marylanders in the Confederate army, were captured. The prisoners were mostly Jews. — [Washing. Chron.]

**Negro Soldiers for Massachusetts.**

[Correspondence of the Philadelphia Inquirer]

The following order from the Secretary of War authorize the raising of regiments of black men in Massachusetts. This is the secret of Gov. Andrew, Wendell Phillips, F. W. Bird, Dr. Howe, and a host of others of the radical school of politics in Massachusetts to this city, and accounts for the many and frequent interviews with the President:

WAR DEPARTMENT, }

WASHINGTON, January 20, 1863. }

Ordered, That Governor Andrew, of Massachusetts, is authorized, until further orders, to raise such number of volunteer companies of artillery for duty in the forts of Massachusetts and elsewhere, such corps of infantry for the volunteer military service as he may find convenient, such volunteers to be enlisted for three years unless sooner discharged, and may include persons of African descent, organized into separate corps. He will make the usual needful requisition on the appropriate staff bureaus and officers for the proper transportation, organization, supplies, subsistence, arms, and equipments of such volunteers.

EDWIN M. STANTON,  
Secretary of war.

Mr. Conway, of Kansas, in a speech in the U. S. House of Representatives, on Tuesday, made the following declaration:—"I conceive, that the true object of this war is to revolutionize the National Government by resolving the North into the nation, and the South into a distinct public body; leaving us in a position to pursue the latter as a separate State. I believe that direction of the war to any other end is a perversion of it, calculated to subvert the very object it was designed to effect."

With these sentiments, he opposes the present plan of conducting the war.

The Judiciary Committee of the House, to whom was referred the resolution to confirm the President's proclamation of emancipation, have agreed to indefinitely postpone action on the subject.

Two attorneys got into some fisticuffs in the Superior Court of Chicago, some days since, and after pummeling each other to their mutual satisfaction, were each fined one hundred dollars "for contempt of court."

The Confederate steamer Antonica was recently captured off Mobile by the gunboat Pocahontas. She was last from Nassau, loaded with powder, and attempted to run into Mobile, but was seen, chased, and finally captured, after having been a run long distance. Her crew compelled her captain to surrender, being fearful that if struck by a shell from the Pocahontas they would all be blown up.

A soldier in attempting to escape from Provost Guard, about 10 o'clock to-day, was shot at five times by the officer, near the corner of King and Royal streets. None of the shots took effect, but the soldier was caught and put under arrest.

**COLORED TESTIMONY.**—We mentioned the Chronicle some time since that certain magistrates had refused to receive the testimony of colored witnesses against white men, and expressed the opinion that the act of Congress on the subject was so clear that it seemed us incomprehensible on what pretext these magistrates could rule out testimony of this character. The matter having thus been brought to the public notice, other cases have been brought before justices, who after hearing the arguments of lawyers on the question, have admitted the testimony. Hereafter, we suppose, such evidence will be recognized in all cases. — [Wash. Chron.]

**LIBERTY HALL.**—A new programme will be presented at Liberty Hall to-night, and the public may expect something rare.

Three men from Loudoun county, Va., were brought to Baltimore yesterday by a detachment of the Thirteenth Pennsylvania Cavalry, stationed at Point of Rocks. William James, charged with keeping a house for the distribution of contraband mails, made affidavit that such was not the case, and Major Fish released him. A. T. McFiller, charged with selling goods contrary to the military order, expressed his ignorance of having committed any offense and on his promise to do so no more, was released. Phineas Janney was arrested on the charge of being engaged in carrying letters to Virginia, and it was alleged that mail matter was found on his person. Major Fish sent him to Fort McHenry.

John Newland Maffit, a son of the celebrated Methodist preacher of that name, is said to be the commander of the Oreto.

A picket skirmish occurred at Morrisville, Fauquier county, Va., on Friday, in which the Federal loss was one killed and one wounded.

Mound City, Arkansas, a short distance north of Memphis was burnt on the 15th instant by a detachment of Federal troops. Only two houses were left standing.

The Albany Argus says the understanding between Gen. Wool and Gov. Seymour in regard to the limits of military command is perfect and in all respects cordial.

The California Senatorship is still undecided.

Further particulars of the bombardment of Acapulco, Mexico, state that the French fleet failed to capture the fort. The object of the French was to obtain supplies, but they were forced to leave without obtaining them.

The Rhode Island, arrived at Fortress Monroe, reports passing the New Ironsides, iron-clad frigate, off Charleston.

Thurlow Weed has sold his share of the Albany Evening Journal to the other partners, and retires from the paper. He was the founder of the paper, and has been its responsible editor for thirty-three years.

The Governor of Connecticut, in a general order, congratulates the people of the State on being able to announce that their quota of militia under the last calls of the President, numbering 14,290 men, has been completed.

It is said that the election of Congressmen in Tennessee will be postponed by request of Gen. Grant.